

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE PEACE IDEA.

Prof. L. Michelangelo Billia, of Turin, an enthusiastic supporter of the peace movement, sends to *The Open Court* an open letter addressed to M. Frederic Passy, one of the chief champions of peace in France. M. Passy is well known in his own country and among the adherents of the cause of peace in all parts of the world. As early as 1867 he was one of the founders of the International and Permanent League of Peace (later entitled "The French Society for Arbitration Among Nations"); in 1888 he established with W. Randal-Cremer the Interparliamentary Union for Arbitration and Peace. In 1892 he was a member of the committee of the International Bureau of Peace at Berne, and in 1901 he was the recipient of the first award of the Nobel Peace Prize. To show how strongly Professor Billia feels the justice of his country's cause in connection with the present troubles in Tripoli, we shall first quote in an English translation a personal letter from him to the Editor:

"Nothing more senseless and intolerant can be imagined than the unfairness with which some English and German journals deride and slander Italy. Their information is gained from the destroyers of peace and from slave dealers. According to these writers we Italians are bandits and thieves because we dare to oppose a domination which turns men into brutes and makes the land sterile. You know that I am an idealist of old, but I am convinced that nothing but bad faith of the worst kind could defend the rights of Turkey.

"I enclose for *The Open Court* a letter which I have addressed to my honorable friend, M. Frederic Passy. You will see how I have succeeded in conciliating the good right of my country with respect for the man who is too noble to array himself on the side of the enemies of Italy and of justice.

"You have a broad mind, dear Dr. Carus, and I think you will recognize that the Anglo-American world ought to know that Italy is conscious of having a lofty mission to accomplish, and that those who are given to understand that we are risking and sacrificing the blood of our heroic youth for petty commercial interests are dupes of a gross error. In this hour Italy represents Right, and Reason goes to battle!

"Therefore I hope you will publish the enclosed letter. I am drunk with enthusiasm; I am working myself to death; my strength is failing."

Professor Billia's letter to Frederic Passy, translated into English, reads as follows:

"TO M. FREDERIC PASSY:

"To you as the highest authority among the friends of peace, I appeal against many insults hurled at Italy by international Tartufes pretending to

be on the side of peace, especially those who give instructions to break the heads of workmen who refuse to strike. They pretend to be unaware of the massacres which occur from time to time, of children's heads held up on pikes under the windows of the consuls, of very recent assassinations for which Turkey has refused us reparation, in order that the restoration of law, the performance of the duty of human responsibility in which Italy sets an example should pass as an act of violence and theft. To consider Turkey as a state and to pretend that there is no question of a domination which is a disgrace and scourge to humanity, is simply dishonoring the cause of peace and denying its fundamental principles. The rights of Turkey! The right to keep men in bondage, to forbid agriculture and civilization, to prescribe carnage, to destroy populations! Ah it is not violence to give free rein against the disarmed, against women and children, the wounded and the sick in the hospitals—yea, even the dead in the cemeteries! Violence they call the behavior of the Italian soldier who spares others' lives as much as possible and risks his own to burst the fetters of slaves, to return the land to cultivation and men to human life; who can lay aside his gun to become a laborer, judge, physician, farmer—to nurse even his most obstinate enemy. Oh were not Tartufe so intelligent, men would call him an imbecile!

"But Italy is winning! Would that all the nations of Europe had won in this manner, to this title, and in the same degree!

"I admit that disputes may arise about the financial and political phases of the enterprise, but let us not speak of violation of rights because then the word "right" would lose its significance.

"Now you have always labored so nobly to set forth ideas clearly, to make the truth understood; you have so often borne testimony with your example and your work that next to covetousness the greatest cause of the evils that afflict humanity lies in the confusion of ideas and in lying words.

"Therefore I appeal to you to say a word to set right the deceived, to unmask the deceivers, to declare that there is no right which opposes the supreme right of the human being and his advance, that the idea of peace is not the idea of lax and selfish toleration of all that is most disgraceful and cruel, but the idea of human solidarity; that nothing works better for the establishment of peace than force directed by intelligence and conscience against the state of injustice; finally that the action of civilized nations against Turkish control is not war waged by well meaning men in place of arbitration, but it is police duty which every individual and every community with a conscience ought to perform against brigands and monsters if it would not become their accomplice.

"I await this word from you, that I may repeat it to Italians, and that I may have the pleasure of telling you for the hundredth time how much admiration, appreciation and veneration we feel for Fredeic Passy.

"Yours sincerely,

"L. MICHELANGELO BILLIA."

AN EXAMPLE OF THE MELIKERTES MOTIVE IN MODERN ART.

A modern artist, Mr. Theodore Baur, has utilized the Melikertes motive (see *May Open Court*, pages 275-278) in a beautiful tile which was published in *The Century* of April, 1882, illustrating an article by Frank D. Millet on "Some American Tiles." Here it is simply called "Boy on Dolphin"